

Tennessee General Permit No. TNR10-0000
Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities

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Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities

On this page...Part I.

Part I. Conditions of coverage under this permit

I.A. Permit area

This general permit covers all areas of the State of Tennessee.

I.B. Discharges covered by this permit

1. Storm water discharges associated with construction activity

This permit authorizes discharges of storm water from construction activities defined as follows:

construction activity including clearing, grading and excavation activities
except: operations that result in the disturbance of less than five acres of total
land area and which are not part of a larger common plan of development or
sale.

This permit may authorize discharges from sites that result in the disturbance of less than five acres of total land area if: **i.** the Director has determined that the discharge from a site is contributing to, or is likely to contribute to, a violation of a State water quality standard; or is a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the State, or is likely to be a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the State; or **ii.** changes in State or Federal rules require sites of five acres or less to obtain a storm water permit. Otherwise, projects or developments of less than five acres of land disturbance are not required to obtain authorization under this permit.

Note: Any discharge of storm water or other fluid to an improved sinkhole or other injection well, as defined, must be authorized by permit or rule as a Class V underground injection under the provisions of Tennessee Rule Chapter 1200-4-6.

2. Storm water discharges from construction support activities

This permit also authorizes storm water discharges from support activities (e.g., equipment staging yards, material storage areas, excavated material disposal areas, borrow areas) provided:

- a. The support activity is primarily related to a construction site that is covered under this general permit and the owner/operator of the support activity is the same as the owner/operator of the construction site;
- b. The support activity is not a commercial operation serving multiple unrelated construction projects by different operators, and does not operate beyond the completion of the construction activity at the last construction project it supports; and
- c. Appropriate controls and measures are identified in a storm water pollution prevention plan covering the discharges from the support activity areas.

Process wastewater discharges from these activities are not authorized by this permit. Process wastewaters must be authorized by an individual permit or appropriate, other general permit.

On this page...Section I.B.3.; I.C.; I.D.

3. Certain non-storm water discharges are covered by this permit.

The following non-storm water discharges from active construction sites are authorized by this permit provided the non-storm water component of the discharge is in compliance with section IV.D.5 (non-storm water discharges): dewatering of work areas of collected storm water and ground water; waters used to wash vehicles (of dust and soil, not process materials such as concrete) where detergents are not used and detention and/or filtering is provided before the water leaves site; water used to control dust in accordance with item IV.D.2.c.ii.; potable water sources including waterline flushings; routine external building washdown which does not use detergents; uncontaminated ground water or spring water; foundation or footing drains where flows are not contaminated with process materials such as solvents.

I.C. Discharges not authorized by this permit

The following storm water discharges are not authorized by this permit:

1. Post-Construction Discharges - Storm water discharges that originate from the construction site after construction activities have been completed and the site has undergone final stabilization.
2. Discharges Mixed with Non-storm Water - Discharges that are mixed with sources of non-storm water, other than discharges which are identified in section III.A.2. of this permit and which are in compliance with section IV.D.5 (non-storm water discharges) of this permit. Any discharge authorized by a different NPDES permit may be commingled with discharges authorized by this permit.
3. Discharges Covered by Another Permit - Storm water discharges associated with construction activity that have been issued an individual permit in accordance with paragraph VII.L.
4. Discharges Threatening Water Quality - Storm water discharges from construction sites that the Director determines will cause, or have the reasonable potential to cause, violations of water quality standards. (Where such determinations have been made, the discharger will be notified by the Director in writing that an individual permit application is necessary. The individual permit application will be on forms as determined by the Director.)
5. Discharges Causing or Contributing to the Water Not Supporting their Designated Classified Uses – The State shall not grant coverage under this permit for discharges that are causing or contributing to the impairment of waters such that it will not support their designated classified uses.
6. Discharges Not Protective of Federally or State listed Threatened and Endangered Species - Storm water discharges and storm water discharge-related activities that are not protective of legally protected listed or proposed threatened or endangered aquatic fauna in the receiving stream(s); or discharges or activities that would result in a “take” of a Federally listed endangered or threatened fish or wildlife species; if the State finds that storm water discharges or storm water related activities are likely to result in any of the above effects, the State will deny the coverage under this general permit unless and until project plans are changed to protect the listed species.
7. Discharges from a New or Proposed Mining Operation – Discharges from a new or proposed mining operation are not covered by this permit.
8. Discharges Negatively Affecting a Property on the National Historic Register – Storm water discharges that would negatively affect a property that is listed or is eligible for listing in the National Historic Register maintained by the Secretary of Interior.

On this page...beginning at I.D.; I.E.

I.D. Submitting an NOI is required to obtain coverage under the permit.

1. Preparation of pollution prevention plan prior to submitting NOI

In order for storm water discharges from construction activities to be authorized to discharge under this general permit, a discharger must:

- a. First develop a pollution prevention plan (covering either the entire site or all portions of the site for which they are operators; see definition in Part IX.) according to the requirements in Part IV (preparation and implementation of the Plan may be a cooperative effort where there is more than one operator at a site); and
- b. Submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) in accordance with the requirements of Part II, using an NOI form provided by the Director (or a photocopy thereof). The Pollution Prevention Plan must be prepared prior to submittal of NOI and implemented upon commencement of construction activities.

2. New NOI for new operator

For construction sites where an operator changes, or where a new operator is added after the submittal of the NOI under Part II, a new NOI for the new operator must be submitted in accordance with Part II.

3. Effective date of coverage under the permit

Discharges from a construction activity are covered by this permit and the operator is authorized to discharge storm water associated with construction activity as of the effective date and time the Division of Water Pollution Control prepares a Notice of Coverage for the construction site. The Director may deny coverage under this permit and require submittal of an application for an individual NPDES permit based on a review of the NOI or other information. If the Division has not been able to transmit an NOC to a permittee within 30 days of receipt of NOI, discharges are authorized under this permit if the NOI has been assigned a valid NPDES permit number and the permittee has been informed of this permit number.

I.E. Request for termination of coverage under the permit

1. NOT form

Operators wishing to terminate coverage under this permit must submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) in accordance with Part VIII. of this permit. The NOT form is attached to this permit as Appendix B.

2. NOT form to be submitted after final stabilization of site

All permittees must submit the NOT after completion of their construction activities and final stabilization of their portion of the site, or after within 30 days after another operator has taken over all of their responsibilities at the site. Appropriate enforcement actions may be taken for permit violations where a permittee submits a NOT but the permittee has not transferred operational control to another permittee or the site has not undergone final stabilization.

On this page...Part II.

II. Notice of Intent (NOI) requirements

II.A. NOI processing

An NOI shall be submitted by the construction site operator (or operators) to the appropriate Environmental Assistance Center(s) (EAC). The Division of Water Pollution Control's central office can serve as an EAC for NOIs submitted for projects of the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Valley Authority. The EAC will review the NOI for completeness and accuracy and as necessary will investigate the project for possible impact to threatened and endangered species of aquatic fauna. Upon completing the review, the EAC will transmit a Notice of Coverage (NOC) to the operator identified as owner/developer on the NOI form.

II.B. Who must submit an NOI?

1. Operators must submit the NOI.

"Operator" for the purpose of this permit and in the context of storm water associated with construction activity, means any party associated with a construction project that meets either of the following two criteria:

- a. The party has operational control over construction plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications; or

(This will typically be the owner or developer - one who has control over project specifications.)

- b. The party has day-to-day operational control of those activities at a project which are necessary to ensure compliance with a storm water pollution prevention plan for the site or other permit conditions (e.g., they are authorized to direct workers at a site to carry out activities required by the SWPPP or comply with other permit conditions).

(This will typically include the general contractor and would also include erosion control contractors.)

2. All operators shall sign the same NOI form.

All operators shall apply for permit coverage on the same NOI form, insofar as possible. The Division's NOI form is designed for more than one operator. The Division can accept separate NOIs from different operators.

However, if one is filing an NOI as an operator at a site for which other operator(s) have already applied and received a construction storm water permit number, then the NOI should include the permit number assigned to the first NOI for the particular site. The description of the site should match the description on the first NOI.

3. When operators change, new operators shall submit a new NOI.

In a case where one or more of the operators changes during the course of a construction project, new operators shall submit new NOIs for their roles at the site. See below for deadlines.

On this page...beginning at II.C.; II.D.; II.E.

II.C. Deadlines for notification

1. 30 days prior to construction

Except as provided below, operators must submit an initial Notice of Intent (NOI) in accordance with the requirements of this Part at least 30 days prior to the commencement of construction activities (i.e., the initial disturbance of soils associated with clearing, grading, excavation activities, or other construction activities).

2. When there is a change of operator

For storm water discharges from construction sites where the operator changes, or projects where an operator is added after an initial NOI has been submitted as above, an NOI in accordance with the requirements of this Part should be submitted as soon as practicable and at least 48 hours prior to when the new operator assumes operational control over site specifications or commences work at the site.

3. Late NOIs

Dischargers are not prohibited from submitting late NOIs. When a late NOI is submitted, authorization is only for future discharges, and prior, unpermitted discharges are subject to the liabilities of subpart VII.Q.

II.D. Contents of Notice of Intent (NOI)

1. NOI Form/Appendix A

Notices of Intent for construction projects shall be on the form provided in Appendix A of this permit, or on photocopy thereof. This form and its instructions set forth the required content of the NOI.

The NOI form must be designed to contain the names and addresses of operators of the construction activity; location and name of the construction site; map showing location of the site; size of the construction activity; estimated starting and ending dates of the construction; name of stream into which storm water enters from the site; and whether or not a storm water pollution prevention plan has been prepared for the project.

2. Completeness of the NOI

The Division may reject an NOI that is not complete with all the requested information.

3. Proper signature(s) on the NOI

The operator(s) of the construction site shall sign the NOIs. Persons who sign shall meet the criteria in subpart VII.G. of this permit.

II.E. Where to submit and what to do with NOIs

1. The applicant shall submit the NOI to the appropriate Environmental Assistance Center (EAC).

One shall submit NOIs to the Division of Water Pollution Control in the EAC responsible for the county(ies) where the construction activity is located and where storm water discharges enter

On this page.. Section II.E.1. (continued)

waters of the State. If a site straddles a county line of counties that are in areas of different EACs, the operators shall send NOIs to each EAC. EAC counties and addresses are given below. All EACs may be reached by telephone at the toll-free number 1-888-891-8332(TDEC). Below are the EACs organized from West to East Tennessee.

Fayette, Shelby and Tipton Counties:

TN DEPT OF ENV AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
2510 MT MORIAH ROAD SUITE E-645
MEMPHIS TN 38115-1520

Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, Obion, Weakly counties:

TN DEPT OF ENV AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
362 CARRIAGE HOUSE DRIVE
JACKSON TN 38305-2222

Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Williamson, Wilson:

TN DEPT OF ENV AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
537 BRICK CHURCH PARK DRIVE
NASHVILLE TN 37243-1550

Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, Wayne

TN DEPT OF ENV AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
2484 PARK PLUS DRIVE
COLUMBIA TN 38401

Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Pickett, Putnam, Overton, Smith, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, White

TN DEPT OF ENV AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
1221 SOUTH WILLOW AVE
COOKEVILLE TN 38506

Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie

TN DEPT OF ENV AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
STATE OFFICE BUILDING SUITE 550
540 MCCALLIE AVE
CHATTANOOGA TN 37402-2013

On this page...section II.E.1. continued; II.E.2.

Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Union

TN DEPT OF ENV AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
2700 MIDDLEBROOK PIKE SUITE 220
KNOXVILLE TN 37921

Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington Counties

TN DEPT OF ENV AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
2305 SILVERDALE ROAD
JOHNSON CITY TN 37601

Water Pollution Control Central Office (may be used by TVA and TDOT)

STORM WATER NOI PROCESSING
TENNESSEE DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL, PERMIT SECTION
6TH FLOOR, L & C ANNEX
401 CHURCH STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-1534

2. Certain applicants shall also submit a copy of the NOI to the local municipality

Applicants that discharge storm water through an NPDES-permitted municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) shall submit a signed copy of the NOI (and at project completion, the NOT) to the owner/operator of the MS4. This is in addition to the original that is submitted to the EAC. As of the effective date of this general permit, the following municipalities are NPDES permitted:

City of Memphis
125 North Main Street, Room 620
Memphis, TN 38103-2091

Nashville/Davidson County
Metro Department of Public Works/NPDES Program
Point Place Business Park, Suite 350
441 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214-3558

City of Knoxville/Engineering
City County Building, Suite 480
P.O. Box 1631
Knoxville, TN 37901-1631

Chattanooga Department of Public Works – Storm Water
1001 Lindsey Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402

On this page...Section II.E.3; Part III.; III.A.; III.B.

3. Permittee shall post copy of NOC at site.

The Notice of Coverage (NOC) is a written notice from the Division of Water Pollution Control sent to the permittee, informing permittee that the NOI was received and has been approved by the Division. Permittees shall post, near the main entrance of the construction site, a copy of the Director's notice of coverage (NOC), and post the telephone number and address of a person whom the public can contact for information. See section IV.B.2. also.

Part III. Special conditions, management practices, and other non-numeric limitations

III.A. Prohibition on non-storm water discharges

1. Storm water discharges only

Except for discharges from support activities, as described in section I.B.2. and certain non-storm water discharges listed in section I.B.3., all discharges covered by this permit shall be composed entirely of storm water.

2. Other NPDES-permitted discharges

Discharges of storm water or wastewater that are in compliance with an NPDES permit (other than this permit) issued for that discharge may be mixed with discharges authorized by this permit.

3. Non-storm water discharges

The following non-storm water discharges from active construction sites are authorized by this permit provided the non-storm water component of the discharge is in compliance with section IV.D.5 (non-storm water discharges): dewatering of work areas of collected storm water and ground water (see also paragraph IV.D.2.a. iii.(c) and (d)); waters used to wash vehicles (of dust and soil, not process materials such as concrete) where detergents are not used and detention and/or filtering is provided before the water leaves site; water used to control dust in accordance with item IV.D.2.c.ii.; potable water sources including waterline flushings; routine external building washdown which does not use detergents; uncontaminated ground water or spring water; foundation or footing drains where flows are not contaminated with process materials such as solvents.

III.B. Releases in excess of Reportable Quantities

The discharge of hazardous substances or oil in the storm water discharge(s) from a facility shall be prevented or minimized in accordance with the applicable storm water pollution prevention plan for the facility. This permit does not relieve the permittee of the reporting requirements of 40 CFR 117 and 40 CFR 302. Where a release containing a hazardous substance in an amount equal to or in excess of a reporting quantity established under either 40 CFR 117 or 40 CFR 302, occurs during a 24 hour period:

On this page...Section III.B.1.; III.C.; III.D.

1. The permittee is required to notify the National Response Center (NRC) (800-424-8802) and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (emergencies: 800-262-3300; non-emergencies: 800-262-3400) in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 117 and 40 CFR 302 as soon as he or she has knowledge of the discharge;
2. The permittee shall submit within 14 calendar days of knowledge of the release a written description of: the release (including the type and estimate of the amount of material released), the date that such release occurred, the circumstances leading to the release, what actions were taken to mitigate effects of the release, and steps to be taken to minimize the chance of future occurrences, to the appropriate Environmental Assistance Center at the address provided in subpart II.E. above; and
3. The storm water pollution prevention plan required under Part IV. of this permit must be modified within 14 calendar days of knowledge of the release: to provide a description of the release, the circumstances leading to the release, and the date of the release. In addition, the plan must be reviewed to identify measures to prevent the reoccurrence of such releases and to respond to such releases, and the plan must be modified where appropriate.

III.C. Spills

This permit does not authorize the discharge of hazardous substances or oil resulting from an on-site spill.

III.D. Discharge compliance with State Water Quality Standards

1. Violation of Water Quality Standards Prohibited

This permit does not authorize storm water or other discharges that would result in a violation of a State water quality standard (Rule Chapters 1200-4-3, 1200-4-4). Such discharges are a violation of this permit.

Where a discharge is already authorized under this permit and the Division determines the discharge to cause or contribute to the violation of applicable State water quality standards, the permitting authority will notify the operator of such violation(s). The permittee shall take all necessary actions to ensure future discharges do not cause or contribute to the violation of a water quality standard and shall document these actions in the pollution prevention plan. See also paragraph III.F.4. in cases where such a discharge impairs the receiving waters such that it will not support designated classified uses.

2. Discharge quality

- a. The construction activity shall be carried out in such a manner as will prevent violations of water quality criteria as stated in Rule 1200-4-3-.03 of the Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. This includes but is not limited to the prevention of any discharge that causes a condition in which visible solids, bottom deposits, or turbidity impairs the usefulness of waters of the state for any of the uses designated for that water body by Rule 1200-4-4. Use classifications for surface waters include fish and aquatic life, livestock watering and wildlife, recreation, irrigation, navigation, industrial water supply, and domestic water supply.
- b. There shall be no distinctly visible floating scum, oil or other matter contained in the storm water discharge.

On this page...Section III.D.2.c.; III.E.

- c. The storm water discharge must not cause an objectionable color contrast in the receiving stream.
- d. The storm water discharge must result in no materials in concentrations sufficient to be hazardous or otherwise detrimental to humans, livestock, wildlife, plant life, or fish and aquatic life in the receiving stream.

III.E. Responsibilities of operators

A permittee may meet one or both of the operational control components in the definition of “operator” found in Part IX. Either section III.E.1. or III.E.2. below, or both, will apply depending on the type of operational control exerted by an individual permittee. Section III.E.3. applies to all permittees.

1. Permittees with operational control over construction plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications (e.g., developer or owner) must:
 - a. Ensure the project specifications that they develop meet the minimum requirements of Part IV (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP)) and all other applicable conditions;
 - b. Ensure that the SWPPP indicates the areas of the project where they have operational control over project specifications (including the ability to make modifications in specifications), and ensure all other permittees implementing portions of the SWPPP impacted by any changes they make to the plan are notified of such modifications in a timely manner; and
 - c. If parties with day-to-day operational control of the construction site have not been identified at the time the SWPPP is initially developed, the permittee with operational control over project specifications shall be considered to be the responsible party until such time as the authority is transferred to another party (e.g., general contractor) and the plan updated.
2. Permittee(s) with day-to-day operational control of those activities at a project which are necessary to ensure compliance with a SWPPP for the site or other permit conditions (e.g., general contractor) must:
 - a. Ensure that the SWPPP for portions of the project where they are operators meets the minimum requirements of Part IV (Storm Water Pollution Plan) and identifies the parties responsible for implementation of control measures identified in the plan;
 - b. Ensure that the SWPPP indicates areas of the project where they have operational control over day-to-day activities;
3. Permittees with operational control over only a portion of a larger construction project (e.g., one of four homebuilders in a subdivision) are responsible for compliance with all applicable terms and conditions of this permit as it relates to their activities on their portion of the construction site, including implementation of BMPs and other controls required by the SWPPP. Permittees shall ensure either directly or through coordination with other permittees, that their activities do not render another party's pollution control ineffective. Permittees must either implement their portions of a common SWPPP or develop and implement their own SWPPP.

On this page...Section III.F.; Part IV.

- III.F. Additional requirements for discharges into waters listed for siltation, or discharges upstream of waters impaired by siltation, that may affect the impaired waters; and for discharges to waters identified by the Department as high quality waters
1. The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan shall be submitted to the local Environmental Assistance Center. Plans for TDOT and TVA projects may be submitted to the central office of the Division of Water Pollution Control. This plan may be submitted with the NOI, but must be submitted prior to start of construction (including grubbing, clearing, excavation).
 2. The permittee shall perform the inspections described in section IV.D.4. before anticipated storm events (or series of storm events such as intermittent showers over one or more days), and within 24 hours after the end of a storm event of 0.5 inches or greater, and at least once per week.
 3. The permittee must certify on a weekly basis, on the form provided in Appendix D of this permit: i. that the weekly inspection of erosion and sediment controls and of outfall points was performed; and ii. whether or not all planned and designed erosion and sediment controls are installed and in working order. The certification must be executed by a person who meets the signatory requirements of subpart VII.G. of this permit. The record of certifications on the form in Appendix D must be submitted by the 15th of the month (postmarked) following the end of the quarter, to the address indicated in section II.E.1. Quarters are January – March, April – June, July – September, and October – December.
 4. If the Division finds that a discharge is causing a violation of water quality standards or causing or contributing to the impairment of the water or any water identified as impaired, and finds that the discharger is complying with storm water pollution prevention plan requirements of this permit, the discharger will be notified by the Director in writing that the discharge is no longer eligible for coverage under the general permit and that continued discharges must be covered by an individual permit. To obtain the individual permit, the operator must file an individual permit application.

Part IV. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

A pollution prevention plan is required and a designated individual is to be responsible.

At least one storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall be developed for each construction project or site covered by this permit. For more effective coordination of BMPs and opportunities for cost sharing, a cooperative effort by the different operators at a site to prepare and participate in a comprehensive SWPPP is encouraged. Individual operators at a site may, but are not required to develop separate SWPPPs that cover only their portion of the project. In instances where there is more than one SWPPP for a site, the permittees must ensure the storm water discharge controls and other measures are compatible with one another and do not prevent another operator from complying with permit conditions.

The General Purpose of the Plan

Storm water pollution prevention plans shall be prepared in accordance with good engineering practices. The plan shall identify potential sources of pollution which one would reasonably expect to affect the quality of storm water discharges from the construction site. The plan shall describe and ensure the implementation of practices which will be used to reduce the pollutants in storm water discharges associated with construction activity at the construction site and to assure compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

On this page...Section IV.A.; IV.B.

IV.A. Deadlines for plan preparation and compliance

1. For discharges authorized under a previous or existing general permit
 - a. Immediate compliance, at a minimum, with requirements for a construction site storm water control plan, construction management techniques, vegetative controls, structural controls, discharge quality, and reporting and recordkeeping requirements in Appendix F [former Tennessee Rule Chapter 1200-4-10-.05, paragraphs (5), (6) and (7)]
 - b. No later than January 1, 2001, for discharges addressed by part III.F. of this permit, compliance with subparts III.F.2. and 3., or by an earlier date if so notified in writing by the Division
 - c. No later than December 31, 2001, or earlier if so notified in writing by the Division, compliance with all parts of this permit
2. For discharges not authorized under an NPDES permit as of the effective date of this permit, the plan shall:
 - a. Be completed prior to the submittal of an NOI to be covered under this permit and updated as appropriate; and
 - b. The plan shall provide for compliance with the terms and schedule of the plan beginning with the initiation of construction activities.

IV.B. Signature, plan review and making plans available

1. Plan must be correctly signed.

The plan shall be signed by the operator (operators) in accordance with subpart VII.G., and be retained on-site at the facility which generates the storm water discharge in accordance with Part VI (retention of records) of this permit. If the site is inactive or does not have an onsite location adequate to store the pollution prevention plan, the location of the plan, along with a contact phone number, shall be posted on site. If the plan is located offsite, reasonable local access to the plan, during normal working hours, must be provided as described below.
2. The permittee shall post a notice near the main entrance of the construction site with the following information:
 - a. A copy of the Notice of Coverage (NOC) with the NPDES permit number for the project;
 - b. The name and telephone number of a local contact person;
 - c. A brief description of the project; and
 - d. The location of the SWPPP if the site is inactive or does not have an on-site location to store the plan.

If posting this information near a main entrance is infeasible due to safety concerns, the notice shall be posted in a local public building. If the construction project is a linear construction project (e.g., pipeline, highway, etc.), the notice must be placed in a publicly accessible location near where construction is actively underway and moved as necessary. This permit does not provide the public with any right to trespass on a construction site for any reason, including inspection of a site. This permit does not require that permittees allow members of the public access to a construction site.

On this page... beginning at IV.B.3.; IV.C.; IV.D.

3. Plans are subject to revision because of deficiencies identified by the Director.

The Director, or authorized representative, may notify the permittee(s) at any time that the plan does not meet one or more of the minimum requirements of this Part. Such notification shall identify those provisions of the permit which are not being met by the plan. The dischargers shall have 48 hours, unless additional time is provided by the Director, after such notification to make changes to sediment and erosion controls to prevent the discharges of sediment from the site and 14 days to make necessary changes to the plan. The Director may take appropriate enforcement action for the period of time the permittee was operating under a plan that did not meet the minimum requirements of the permit. The Director, or authorized representative, may require revisions to the plan necessary to prevent a negative impact to legally protected state or federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered aquatic fauna.

4. The permittee shall make plans available upon request to the Director; or local agency approving sediment and erosion plans, grading plans, or storm water management plans; or in the case of a storm water discharge associated with industrial (construction) activity which discharges through a municipal separate storm sewer system with an NPDES permit, to the municipal operator of the system.

IV.C. Keeping plans current

The permittee must amend the plan:

- i. Whenever there is a change in the scope of the project, which would be expected to have a significant affect on the discharge of pollutants to the waters of the State and which has not otherwise been addressed in the plan;
- ii. Whenever inspections or investigations by site operators, local, State or federal officials indicate the storm water pollution prevention plan is proving ineffective in eliminating or significantly minimizing pollutants from sources identified under section IV.D.2 of this permit, or is otherwise not achieving the general objectives of controlling pollutants in storm water discharges associated with construction activity;
- iii. To identify any new contractor and/or subcontractor that will implement a measure of the storm water pollution prevention plan (see subpart III.E. for further description of which contractors must be identified); and
- iv. To include measures necessary to prevent a negative impact to legally protected state or federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered aquatic fauna. Amendments to the plan may be reviewed by the State of Tennessee and EPA in the same manner as subpart IV.B above.

IV.D. Components of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

The storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall include the following items:

1. Site description

Each plan shall provide a description of pollutant sources and other information as indicated:

- a. A description of the nature of the construction activity;
- b. A description of the intended sequence of major activities which disturb soils for major portions of the site (e.g., grubbing, excavation, grading, utilities and infrastructure installation, etc.);
- c. Estimates of the total area of the site and the total area of the site that is expected to be disturbed by excavation, grading, or other activities;

On this page...beginning at Section IV.D.1.d.; IV.D.2.

- d. Any data describing the soil (data may be referenced or summarized) or the quality of any discharge from the site;
- e. An estimate of the runoff coefficient of the site after construction activities are completed;
- f. A general location map (e.g. portion of a city or county map or similar scale) and a site map indicating drainage patterns and approximate slopes anticipated after major grading activities, areas of soil disturbance, an outline of areas which are not to be disturbed, the location of major structural and nonstructural controls identified in the plan, the location of areas where stabilization practices are expected to occur, surface waters including wetlands, sinkholes, and locations where storm water is discharged to a surface water;
- g. Careful identification on the site map of outfall points for storm water discharges from the site; the plan shall identify outfall points intended for coverage under the general permit;
- h. A description of any discharge associated with industrial activity other than construction storm water that originates on site and the location of that activity; and
- i. The name of the receiving water(s), and approximate size and location of affected wetland acreage at the site.

2. What storm water runoff controls must be used?

Each plan shall include a description of appropriate controls and measures that will be implemented at the construction activity. The plan must clearly describe for each major activity identified in paragraph IV.D.1.b: (a) appropriate control measures and the general timing during the construction process that the measures will be implemented and (b) which permittee is responsible for implementation of which controls. The description and implementation of controls shall address the following minimum components; additional controls may be necessary to comply with section III.D.2:

- a. Erosion and sediment controls
 - i. General criteria and requirements
 - (a) The construction-phase erosion and sediment controls shall be designed to retain sediment on site.
 - (b) All control measures must be properly selected, installed, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and good engineering practices. If periodic inspections or other information indicates a control has been used inappropriately, or incorrectly, the permittee must replace or modify the control for site situations.
 - (c) If sediment escapes the construction site, off-site accumulations of sediment that have not reached a stream must be removed at a frequency sufficient to minimize offsite impacts (e.g., fugitive sediment that has escaped the construction site and has collected in street must be removed so that it is not subsequently washed into storm sewers and streams by the next rain and/or so that it does not pose a safety hazard to users of public streets). Permittees shall not initiate remediation/restoration of a stream without consulting the Division first. This permit does not, however, authorize access to private property.
 - (d) Sediment should be removed from sediment traps, silt fences, sedimentation ponds, and other sediment controls as necessary, and must be removed when design capacity has been reduced by 50%.

- (e) Litter, construction debris, and construction chemicals exposed to storm water shall be picked up prior to anticipated storm events (e.g. forecasted by local

On this page...Section IV.D.2.a.i.(e) (continued); IV.D.2.a.ii.

weather reports), or otherwise prevented from becoming a pollutant source for storm water discharges (e.g., screening outfalls, daily pick-up, etc.). After use, silt fences should be removed or otherwise prevented from becoming a pollutant source for storm water discharges.

- (f) Offsite material storage areas (also including overburden and stockpiles of dirt, etc.) used solely by the permitted project are considered a part of the project and shall be addressed in the pollution prevention plan.
- (g) Pre-construction vegetative ground cover shall not be destroyed, removed or disturbed more than 20 calendar days prior to grading or earth moving unless the area is seeded and/or mulched or other temporary cover is installed.
- (h) Clearing and grubbing must be held to the minimum necessary for grading and equipment operation.
- (i) Construction must be sequenced to minimize the exposure time of graded or denuded areas.
- (j) Construction must be phased for projects in which over 50 acres of soil will be disturbed. Areas of the completed phase must be stabilized within 21 days after another phase has been initiated.
- (k) Erosion and sediment control measures must be in place and functional before earth moving operations begin, and must be constructed and maintained throughout the construction period. Temporary measures may be removed at the beginning of the work day, but must be replaced at the end of the work day.
- (l) The following records shall be maintained [on site](#): the dates when major grading activities occur; the dates when construction activities temporarily or permanently cease on a portion of the site; and the dates when stabilization measures are initiated.

ii. Stabilization practices

The plan shall include a description of interim and permanent stabilization practices, including site-specific scheduling of the implementation of the practices. Site plans should ensure that existing vegetation is preserved where attainable and that disturbed portions of the site are stabilized. Site plans should give consideration to using waterway buffer areas in which construction activities, borrow and/or fill are prohibited. Stabilization practices may include: temporary seeding, permanent seeding, mulching, geotextiles, sod stabilization, vegetative buffer strips, protection of trees, preservation of mature vegetation, and other appropriate measures. Use of impervious surfaces for stabilization should be avoided.

- (a) Stabilization measures shall be initiated as soon as practicable in portions of the site where construction activities have temporarily or permanently ceased, but in no case more than seven days after the construction activity in that portion of the site has temporarily or permanently ceased. Except in the following two situations: i. where the initiation of stabilization measures by the seventh day is precluded by snow cover or frozen ground conditions, stabilization measures shall be initiated as soon as practicable; or ii. where construction activity on a portion of the site is temporarily ceased, and earth disturbing activities will be resumed within 15 days, temporary stabilization measures do not have to be initiated on that portion of site.

On this page...Section IV.D.2.a.ii.(b); IV.D.a.iii.

- (b) Temporary or permanent soil stabilization shall be accomplished within 15 days after final grading or other earth work. Permanent stabilization with perennial vegetation (using native herbaceous and woody plants where practicable) or other permanently stable, non-eroding surface shall replace any temporary measures as soon as practicable.

iii. Structural practices

The plan shall include a description of structural practices to divert flows from exposed soils, store flows or otherwise limit runoff and the discharge of pollutants from exposed areas of the site to the degree attainable. Such practices may include silt fences, earth dikes, drainage swales, sediment traps, check dams, subsurface drains, pipe slope drains, level spreaders, storm drain inlet protection, rock outlet protection, reinforced soil retaining systems, gabions, and temporary or permanent sediment basins. Structural controls shall not be placed in streams or wetlands except as authorized by a section 404 permit and/or Tennessee Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit.

- (a) Erosion and sediment control measures shall be designed according to the size and slope of disturbed or drainage areas to detain runoff and trap sediment. In addition, erosion and sediment controls shall be designed to control the rainfall and runoff from a 2 year, 24 hour storm, as a minimum. (Approx. values: Memphis, 4.0 inches/24 hours; Nashville, 3.5 inches/24 hours; Chattanooga, 3.6 inches/24 hours; and Knoxville, 3.2 inches/24 hours. See Appendix C.) Permittees shall maintain a rain gauge at the site.
- (b) For common drainage locations that serve an area with 10 or more acres disturbed at one time, a temporary (or permanent) sediment basin that provides storage for a calculated volume of runoff from a 2 year, 24 hour storm and runoff coefficient from each disturbed acre drained, or equivalent control measures, shall be provided where attainable until final stabilization of the site. Where no such calculation has been performed, a temporary (or permanent) sediment basin providing 3,600 cubic feet of storage per acre drained, or equivalent control measures, shall be provided until final stabilization of the site. When computing the number of acres draining into a common location, it is not necessary to include flows from offsite areas and flows from onsite areas that are either undisturbed or have undergone final stabilization where such flows are diverted around both the disturbed area and the sediment basin. For drainage locations which serve 10 or more disturbed acres at one time and where a temporary sediment basin providing 3,600 cubic feet of storage per acre drained, or equivalent controls are not attainable, multiple, smaller sediment basins and/or sediment traps must be used.
- (c) Discharges from sediment basins and traps must be through a pipe or lined or well grassed channel so that the discharge does not cause erosion.
- (d) Muddy water to be pumped from excavation and work areas must be held in settling basins or filtered prior to its discharge into surface waters. Water must be discharged through a pipe, well grassed or lined channel or other equivalent means so that the discharge does not cause erosion and sedimentation.

On this page...Section IV.D.2.b.

b. Storm water management

The SWPPP shall include a description of measures that will be installed during the construction process to control pollutants in storm water discharges that will occur after construction operations have been completed. This permit only addresses the installation of storm water management measures, and not the ultimate operation and maintenance of such structures after the construction activities have been completed and the site has undergone final stabilization. Permittees are only responsible for the installation and maintenance of storm water management measures prior to final stabilization of the site, and are not responsible for maintenance after storm water discharges associated with construction activity have been eliminated from the site.

- i. Such practices may include: storm water detention structures (including wet ponds); storm water retention structures; flow attenuation by use of open vegetated swales and natural depressions; infiltration of runoff onsite; and sequential systems (which combine several practices). The pollution prevention plan shall include an explanation of the technical basis used to select the practices to control pollution where flows exceed predevelopment levels.
- ii. Velocity dissipation devices shall be placed at discharge locations and along the length of any outfall channel to provide a non-erosive velocity flow from the structure to a water course so that the natural physical and biological characteristics and functions are maintained and protected (e.g., no significant changes in the hydrological regime of the receiving water).

c. Other items needing control

- i. No solid materials, including building materials, shall be discharged to waters of the United States, except as authorized by a section 404 permit and/or Tennessee Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit.
- ii. Off-site vehicle tracking of sediments and the generation of dust shall be minimized.
- iii. For installation of any waste disposal systems on site, or sanitary sewer or septic system, the plan shall provide for the necessary sediment controls. Permittees must also comply with applicable State and/or local waste disposal, sanitary sewer or septic system regulations for such systems to the extent these are located within the permitted area.
- iv. The plan shall include a description of construction and waste materials expected to be stored on-site with updates as appropriate. The SWPPP shall also include a description of controls to reduce pollutants from these materials including storage practices to minimize exposure of the materials to storm water, and spill prevention and response.
- v. A description of storm water sources from areas other than construction and a description of controls and measures that will be implemented at those sites.
- vi. The plan shall include measures to protect legally protected state or federally listed threatened or endangered aquatic fauna and/or critical habitat (if applicable).

d. Approved local government sediment and erosion control requirements

- i. Permittees must include in their plan any procedures and requirements specified in applicable sediment and erosion site plans or site permits, or storm water management site plans or site permits approved by local officials.

On this page...Section IV.D.2.a.iii.d. (continued); IV.D.3.

Permittees shall comply with any such requirements during the term of the permit. This provision does not apply to provisions of master plans, comprehensive plans, non-enforceable guidelines or technical guidance documents that are not identified in a specific local government plan or permit that is issued for the construction site.

- ii. Storm water pollution prevention plans must be amended to reflect any change that is instituted by the local government to sediment and erosion site plans or site permits, or storm water management site plans or site permits for which the permittee receives written notice.

3. Maintenance

The plan shall describe procedures to ensure that vegetation, erosion and sediment control measures and other protective measures identified in the site plan are kept in good and effective operating condition. Maintenance needs identified in inspections or by other means shall be accomplished before the next storm event if possible, but in no case more than seven days after the need is identified. If maintenance prior to the next anticipated storm event is impracticable, maintenance must be scheduled and accomplished as soon as practicable.

4. Inspections

- a. Inspector training and certification

(Reserved)

- b. Schedule of inspections

- i. Except for construction sites identified according to Part III.F.*, inspections, described in paragraphs c., d., and e. below, shall be done before anticipated storm events (or series of storm events such as intermittent showers over one or more days), and within 24 hours after the end of a storm event of 0.5 inches or greater, and at least once every fourteen calendar days. Where sites have been finally or temporarily stabilized, or runoff is unlikely due to winter conditions (e.g. site covered with snow, ice, or frozen ground), such inspection only has to be conducted once per month.
- ii. For discharges identified for additional requirements under Part III.F.*, inspections, described in paragraphs c., d., and e. below, shall be performed before anticipated storm events (or series of storm events such as intermittent showers over one or more days), within 24 hours after the end of a storm event of 0.5 inches or greater, and at least once per week.

* Discharges into waters listed for siltation or waters identified by the Department as impaired because of siltation; and for discharges to waters identified by the Department as high quality waters.

- iii. Inspections and associated, necessary repairs done 60 hours before a rain event constitute compliance with “before anticipated storm events,” and inspections and repairs on a Friday meet the requirement for rain events over the weekend.

On this page...Section IV.D.4.c.

- c. Qualified personnel (provided by the permittee or cooperatively by multiple permittees) shall inspect disturbed areas of the construction site that have not been finally stabilized, areas used for storage of materials that are exposed to precipitation, structural control measures, and locations where vehicles enter or exit the site.
- d. Disturbed areas and areas used for storage of materials that are exposed to precipitation shall be inspected for evidence of, or the potential for, pollutants entering the drainage system. Erosion and sediment control measures identified in the plan shall be observed to ensure that they are operating correctly.
- e. Outfall points (where discharges from the site enter streams or wet weather conveyances) shall be inspected to ascertain whether erosion control measures are effective in preventing significant impacts to receiving waters. Where discharge locations are inaccessible, nearby downstream locations shall be inspected if possible. Locations where vehicles enter or exit the site shall be inspected for evidence of offsite sediment tracking.
- f. Based on the results of the inspection, any inadequate control measures or control measures in disrepair shall be replaced or modified, or repaired as necessary, before the next rain event if possible, but in no case more than seven days after the need is identified. If maintenance prior to the next anticipated storm event is impracticable, maintenance must be scheduled and accomplished as soon as practicable.
- g. Based on the results of the inspection, the site description identified in the plan in accordance with paragraph IV.D.1 of this permit and pollution prevention measures identified in the plan in accordance with paragraph IV.D.2 of this permit shall be revised as appropriate, but in no case later than 14 calendar days following the inspection. Such modifications shall provide for timely implementation of any changes to the plan in no case later than 21 calendar days following the inspection.
- h. Inspections shall be documented and include the scope of the inspection, name(s) and title or qualifications of personnel making the inspection, the date(s) of the inspection, major observations relating to the implementation of the storm water pollution prevention plan (including the location(s) of discharges of sediment or other pollutants from the site and of any control device that failed to operate as designed or proved inadequate for a particular location), and actions taken in accordance with paragraph IV.D.4.f. of the permit.

5. Non-storm water discharges

Sources of non-storm water listed in section III.A.3 of this permit that are combined with storm water discharges associated with construction activity must be identified in the plan. The plan shall identify and ensure the implementation of appropriate pollution prevention measures for the non-storm water component(s) of the discharge. Any non-storm water must be discharged through stable discharge structures.

On this page...Part V.; Part VI.; Part VII.; VII.B.

Part V. (Reserved)

Part VI. Retention of records

VI.A. Documents

The permittee shall retain copies of storm water pollution prevention plans and all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the Notice of Intent to be covered by this permit, for a period of at least three years from the date the notice of termination is filed. This period may be extended by written request of the Director.

VI.B. Accessibility

The permittee shall retain a copy of the storm water pollution prevention plan required by this permit (including a copy of the permit language) at the construction site (or other local location accessible to the Director and the public) from the date construction commences to the date of final stabilization. The permittees with day to day operational control over pollution prevention plan implementation shall have a copy of the plan available at a central location onsite for the use of all operators and those identified as having responsibilities under the plan whenever they are on the construction site.

VII. Standard permit conditions

VII.A. Duty to comply

The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of CWA and is grounds for enforcement action; for termination of permit coverage, or for denial of a permit renewal application.

VII.B. Continuation of the expired general permit

This permit expires five years after the effective date. However, an expired general permit may continue in force and effect until a new general permit replaces the expired one. To retain coverage under the continued permit, permittees should provide notice of their intent to remain covered under this permit at least 30 days prior to the expiration date. Coverage under the expired general permit will terminate 90 days after the effective date of a new general permit that replaces the expired one. The notice must be signed in accordance with section VII.G.1. of this permit and must contain the following information:

- i. Name, address and telephone number of the operator; and
- ii. The existing storm water construction permit number.

This information may be submitted on a post card or in a letter and shall be submitted to the appropriate Environmental Assistance Center of the Division of Water Pollution Control, as given in subpart II.D.

VII.C. Need to halt or reduce activity not a defense

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

On this page...beginning at VII.D.

VII.D. Duty to mitigate

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit.

VII.E. Duty to provide information

The permittee shall furnish to the Director or an authorized representative of the Director any information which is requested to determine compliance with this permit or other information.

VII.F. Other information

When the permittee becomes aware that he or she failed to submit any relevant facts or submitted incorrect information in the Notice of Intent or in any other report to the Director, he or she shall promptly submit such facts or information.

VII.G. Signatory requirements

All Notices of Intent, storm water pollution prevention plans, reports, certifications or information either submitted to the Director or the operator of a large or medium municipal separate storm sewer system shall be signed as follows:

1. All Notices of Intent shall be signed as follows:
 - a. For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this section, a responsible corporate officer means: a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy or decision-making functions for the corporation; or the manager of one or more manufacturing, production or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding \$25,000,000 (in second-quarter 1980 dollars) if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures;
 - b. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or
 - c. For a municipality, State, Federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. For purposes of this section, a principal executive officer of a Federal agency includes (1) the chief executive officer of the agency, or (2) a senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency (e.g., Regional Administrators of EPA).
2. Storm water pollution prevention plans, reports, certifications or other information submittals shall be signed as follows:

All reports required by the permit and other information requested by the Director or authorized representative of the Director shall be signed by a person described above or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

On this page... Section VII.G.2. (continued); VII.H.; VII.I.

- a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above and submitted to the Director.
 - b. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of manager, operator, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position).
 - c. Changes to authorization. If an authorization under section II.B.3. is no longer accurate because a different operator has responsibility for the overall operation of the construction site, a new notice of intent satisfying the requirements of paragraph II.B must be submitted to the Director prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications to be signed by an authorized representative.
3. Certification. Except as noted in section 4 below, any person signing documents under paragraph VII.G shall make the following certification. Thus, this certification must precede the signature on any report to be signed and submitted pursuant to this permit:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

4. Construction contractors required to sign an NOI because they meet the definition of an operator but who are not primarily responsible for preparing an NOI, shall sign the following certification statement on the NOI:

I certify under penalty of law that I have reviewed this document, any attachments, and the SWPPP referenced above. Based on my inquiry of the construction site owner/developer identified above and/or my inquiry of the person directly responsible for assembling this Notice of Intent, I believe the information submitted is accurate. I am aware that this NOI, if approved, makes the above-described construction activity subject to NPDES permit number TNR100000, and that certain of my activities on-site are thereby regulated. I am aware that there are significant penalties, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations, for failure to comply with these permit requirements.

VII.H. Penalties for falsification of reports

Knowingly making any false statement on any report required by this permit may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in Section 309 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and in T.C.A. §69-3-115 of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act.

VII.I. Oil and hazardous substance liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject

On this page... Section VII.I. (continued)

under section 311 of the CWA or section 106 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).

VII.J. Property rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, nor any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property nor any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of Federal, State or local laws or regulations. The issuance of this permit does not authorize trespassing or discharges of storm water or non-storm water across private property.

VII.K. Severability

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.

VII.L. Requiring an individual permit

1. Director can require a site to obtain an individual permit.

The Director may require any person authorized by this permit to apply for and/or obtain an individual NPDES permit. Any interested person may petition the Director to take action under this paragraph. Where the Director requires a discharger authorized to discharge under this permit to apply for an individual NPDES permit, the Director shall notify the discharger in writing that a permit application is required. This notification shall include a brief statement of the reasons for this decision, an application form if needed, a statement setting a deadline for the discharger to file the application, and a statement that on the effective date of issuance or denial of the individual NPDES permit or the alternative general permit as it applies to the individual permittee, coverage under this general permit shall automatically terminate. Applications shall be submitted to the appropriate Environmental Assistance Center of the Division as indicated in subpart II.E of this permit. The Director may grant additional time to submit the application upon request of the applicant. If a discharger fails to submit in a timely manner an individual NPDES permit application as required by the Director under this paragraph, then the applicability of this permit to the individual NPDES permittee is automatically terminated at the end of the day specified by the Director for application submittal.

2. Permittee may request individual permit instead of this permit.

Any discharger authorized by this permit may request to be excluded from the coverage of this permit by applying for an individual permit. In such cases, the permittee shall submit an individual application in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 122.26(c)(1)(ii), with reasons supporting the request, to the Water Pollution Control office of the appropriate Department Environmental Assistance Center. The request may be granted by issuance of an individual permit, or alternative general permit, if the reasons cited by the permittee are adequate to support the request.

3. Individual permit terminates general permit.

When an individual NPDES permit is issued to a discharger otherwise subject to this permit, or the discharger is authorized to discharge under an alternative NPDES general permit, the

On this page...Section VII.L.3. (continued); VII.M.

applicability of this permit to the individual NPDES permittee is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit or the date of authorization of coverage under the alternative general permit, whichever the case may be. When an individual NPDES permit is denied to an owner or operator otherwise subject to this permit, or the owner or operator is denied for coverage under an alternative NPDES general permit, the applicability of this permit to the individual NPDES permittee is automatically terminated on the date of such denial, unless otherwise specified by the Director.

VII.M. Other, non-storm water, program requirements

No condition of this permit shall release the permittee from any responsibility or requirements under other environmental statutes or regulations.

VII.N. Proper operation and maintenance

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit and with the requirements of storm water pollution prevention plans.

Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. Proper operation and maintenance requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems, installed by a permittee only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

VII.O. Inspection and entry

The permittee shall allow authorized representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director or an authorized representative of the Director of the Division of Water Pollution Control, or, in the case of a construction site which discharges through a municipal separate storm sewer, an authorized representative of the municipal operator or the separate storm sewer receiving the discharge, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law:

- i. To enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted or where records must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
- ii. To have access to and copy at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit; and
- iii. To inspect any facilities or equipment (including monitoring and control equipment).

VII.P. Permit actions

This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.

VII.Q. Liabilities

1. Civil and criminal liability

Except as provided in this permit, nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance. Notwithstanding this permit, the permittee shall remain liable for any damages sustained by the State of Tennessee, including

On this page... Section VII.Q.1. (continued); Part VIII.

but not limited to fish kills and losses of aquatic life and/or wildlife, as a result of the discharge of waste water to any surface or subsurface waters. Additionally, notwithstanding this permit, it shall be the responsibility of the discharger to conduct its waste water treatment and/or discharge activities in a manner such that public or private nuisances or health hazards will not be created.

2. Liability under State law

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable State law or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.

Part VIII. Termination of coverage

VIII.A. Notice of Termination (NOT)

1. Where a site has been finally stabilized and all storm water discharges from construction activities that are authorized by this permit are eliminated, or where storm water discharges have otherwise been eliminated, or where the operator of all storm water discharges at a facility changes, the permittee must submit a Notice of Termination that is signed in accordance with Subpart VII.G of this permit.
2. The Notice of Termination shall be submitted on the Division's NOT form provided in Appendix B of this permit.
3. The following certification signed in accordance with Subpart VI.G (signatory requirements) of this permit:

I certify under penalty of law that either: (a) all storm water discharges associated with construction activity from the portion of the identified facility where I was an operator have ceased or have been eliminated or (b) I am no longer an operator at the construction site. I understand that by submitting this notice of termination, I am no longer authorized to discharge storm water associated with construction activity under this general permit, and that discharging pollutants in storm water associated with construction activity to waters of the United States is unlawful under the Clean Water Act where the discharge is not authorized by a NPDES permit. I also understand that the submittal of this notice of termination does not release an operator from liability for any violations of this permit or the Clean Water Act.

4. For the purposes of this certification, elimination of storm water discharges associated with construction activity means that all disturbed soils at the portion of the construction site where the operator had control have been finally stabilized and temporary erosion and sediment control measures have been removed or will be removed at an appropriate time to insure final stabilization is maintained, or that all storm water discharges associated with construction activities from the identified site that are authorized by a NPDES general permit have otherwise been eliminated from the portion of the construction site where the operator had control.

VIII.B. Addresses

All Notices of Termination are to be sent, using the form provided by the Director (or a photocopy thereof), to the address of the appropriate Environmental Assistance Center.

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Part IX. Definitions

“Best Management Practices” (“BMPs”) means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

“Clearing,” in the definition of discharges associated with construction activity, does not refer to clearing of vegetation along roadways, highways or power lines for sight distance or other maintenance and/or safety concerns, or cold planing, milling, and/or removal of concrete and/or bituminous asphalt roadway pavement surfaces. Clearing typically refers to removal of vegetation and disturbance of soil prior to grading or excavation in anticipation of construction activities. Clearing may also refer to wide area land disturbance in anticipation of non-construction activities; for instance, clearing forested land in order to convert forest land to pasture for wildlife management purposes.

“Control measure”--As used in this permit, refers to any Best Management Practice or other method used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States.

“Commencement of construction”--The initial disturbance of soils associated with clearing, grading, or excavating activities or other construction activities.

“CWA” means the Clean Water Act or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C 1251 et seq.

“Director” means the Director of the Division of Water Pollution Control of the State of Tennessee.

“Discharge of storm water associated with construction activity”--As used in this permit, refers to storm water point source discharges from areas where soil disturbing activities (e.g., clearing, grading, or excavation, etc.), or construction materials or equipment storage or maintenance (e.g., earth fill piles, fueling, etc.) are located.

“Final stabilization” means that all soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed, and that a perennial vegetative cover sufficient to prevent erosion has been well established on all unpaved areas, and/or equivalent permanent stabilization measures have been employed.

“Grading” and “excavation” do not refer to cold planing, milling, and/or removal of concrete and/or bituminous asphalt roadway pavement surfaces.

“High quality waters” are surface waters of the State of Tennessee that are identified by the Department as high quality waters. Characteristics of high quality waters are listed at Rule 1200-4-3-.06 of *the official compilation - rules and regulations of the State of Tennessee*. Characteristics include waters designated by the Water Quality Control Board as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW); waters that provide habitat for ecologically significant populations of certain aquatic or semi-aquatic plants or animals; waters that provide specialized recreational opportunities; waters that possess outstanding scenic or geologic values; or waters where existing conditions are better than water quality standards. High quality waters are sometimes referred to as Tier II or Tier III (ONRW) waters.

“Large and Medium municipal separate storm sewer system” means all municipal separate storm sewers that are either:

(i) Located in an incorporated place (city) with a population of 100,000 or more as determined by the latest Decennial Census by the Bureau of Census (these cities are listed in Appendices F and G of 40 CFR 122); or

(ii) Located in the counties with unincorporated urbanized populations of 100,000 or more, except municipal separate storm sewers that are located in the incorporated places, townships or towns within such counties (these counties are listed in Appendices H and I of 40 CFR 122); or

(iii) Owned or operated by a municipality other than those described in paragraph (i) or (ii) and that are designated by the Director as part of the large or medium municipal separate storm sewer system.

“NOI” means notice of intent to be covered by this permit (see Part II of this permit.)

“NOT” means notice of termination (see Part VIII of this permit).

“Monthly” refers to calendar months.

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“Operator” for the purpose of this permit and in the context of storm water associated with construction activity, means any party associated with a construction project that meets either of the following two criteria:

- i. The party has operational control over construction plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications; or

(This will typically be the owner or developer - one who has control over project specifications.)

- ii. The party has day-to-day operational control of those activities at a project which are necessary to ensure compliance with a storm water pollution prevention plan for the site or other permit conditions
- iii. (e.g., they are authorized to direct workers at a site to carry out activities required by the SWPPP or comply with other permit conditions).

(This will typically include the general contractor and would also include erosion control contractors.)

“Point source” means any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff.

“Runoff coefficient” means the fraction of total rainfall that will appear at the conveyance as runoff.

“Storm water” means storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

“Storm water associated with industrial activity” is defined at 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) and incorporated here by reference. Most relevant to this permit is 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(x), which relates to construction activity including clearing, grading and excavation activities.

“Storm water discharge-related activities” include: a. activities which cause, contribute to, or result in point source storm water pollutant discharges, including but not limited to: excavation, site development, grading and other surface disturbance activities; and b. measures to control storm water including the siting, construction and operation of best management practices (BMPs) to control, reduce or prevent storm water pollution.

“Take” of an endangered species means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.

“Waters” or “waters of the state” is defined in the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act and means any and all water, public or private, on or beneath the surface of the ground, which are contained within, flow through or border upon Tennessee or any portion thereof except those bodies of water confined to and retained within the limits of private property in single ownership which do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface or underground waters.

(End of body of permit; appendices follow.)